

No. 13418

**FRANCE
and
MAURITANIA**

**Agreement on cultural co-operation. Signed at Paris on
19 June 1961**

Termination of the above-mentioned Agreement

Authentic text of the Agreement: French.

*The Agreement and certified statement were registered by France on 9 July
1974.*

**FRANCE
et
MAURITANIE**

**Accord de coopération culturelle. Signé à Paris le 19 juin
1961**

Abrogation de l'Accord susmentionné

Texte authentique de l'Accord: français.

*L'Accord et la déclaration certifiée ont été enregistrés par la France le 9 juillet
1974.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and
The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the other
hand,

Considering the ties of spiritual and moral solidarity that freely unite the
the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the French Republic,

Considering that French is the official language of the Islamic Republic
of Mauritania and of the French Republic,

Concerned with promoting, through close co-operation, the most fruitful
exchanges in the field of sciences, culture and education,

Have agreed as follows:

TITLE I

CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Article 1. The Government of the French Republic undertakes to assist
the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in developing educa-
tion in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and to facilitate, in
its own territory, the training of Mauritanian nationals.

It shall, in particular, take appropriate steps to place at the disposal of
the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania qualified teaching per-
sonnel and the personnel necessary for pedagogical inspections in the various
categories of education, including youth activities and sports, for the organiza-
tion and supervision of competitive and other examinations and for the oper-
ation of the administrative educational services.

The methods whereby such personnel shall be made available, and also
their duties, rights and guarantees, shall be governed by the provisions of the
General Agreement on technical co-operation in personnel matters,² subject to
the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 2. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania undertakes in the same
spirit:

— To apply in the first instance to the French Government for the recruitment
of such personnel;

¹ Came into force on 14 November 1961, the date of entry into force of the Treaty on co-operation between the French Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania of 19 June 1961 (see p. 3 of this volume), in accordance with article 21.

² See p. 61 of this volume.

- To accord such personnel, as also the personnel of inspectorates and of competitive and other examination boards, every facility in the accomplishment of their task;
- Where necessary, to accord every facility to the Government of the French Republic for the setting up and maintenance of educational establishments in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, with due respect for the laws and regulations relating to public policy (*ordre public* and *bonnes mœurs*) such establishments being subject to the same fiscal and parafiscal regime as is applied to the corresponding establishments of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Article 3. The list of requirements in respect of educational personnel shall be drawn up annually by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and communicated to the French Republic before 1 April of each year for the forthcoming academic year.

The appointment of educational personnel shall be announced by the competent authorities of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and shall take effect from a date which shall be fixed so as to avoid any interruption in current educational service.

The period of appointment may be extended by tacit agreement from one school year to another, except when the person concerned requests otherwise or when one of the Contracting Parties decides otherwise three months before the end of the school year. On the same date the person in question shall be informed of the decision taken in his regard.

The date of repatriation of educational personnel shall coincide with the end of the school year, subject to the provisions of article 9 and of the last paragraph of article 10 of the General Agreement on technical co-operation in personnel matters.

Article 4. Members of the teaching profession shall be entitled to not less than ninety days of annual leave, including travel time, during the major school holidays. Administrative personnel shall be entitled to seventy-five days of annual leave to be scheduled in accordance with the requirements of the service.

Article 5. Personnel made available to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under this Agreement shall, in accordance with the regulations relating to the position of officials seconded for the accomplishment of technical or cultural co-operation tasks, have the same terms of employment and the same professional guarantees and freedoms traditionally accorded by the French Republic to members of the teaching profession.

Article 6. Pedagogical control of French teaching personnel serving in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall be carried out by general inspectors of public education on missions organized by agreement between the two Governments and by the secondary-school inspector and the members of the corps of inspectors who hold the certificates required in France for the exercise of these functions or who have equivalent experience.

Administrative reports on the personnel covered by this Agreement shall be made by qualified French and Mauritanian university officials and by the Minister of National Education of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Article 7. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania may request that the inspection referred to in the first paragraph of the preceding article to cover personnel other than those mentioned in that paragraph.

The expenses involved in general inspection missions shall be borne by the French Republic.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall grant every facility for the fulfilment of their task to members of the teaching profession and of the corps of inspectors and to members of examining boards or adjudicators of competitions who are called upon to perform their duties in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under this Agreement.

Article 8. In order to ensure solidarity with the French Republic in the field of education and to promote access for its nationals to French establishments, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania declares its willingness to co-ordinate the teaching provided in its educational establishments with that provided in corresponding establishments of the French Republic.

Any modifications of study programmes and courses that may seem necessary to the Mauritanian authorities shall, to the extent that such programmes are to lead to French diplomas, be the subject of an agreement between the Contracting Parties.

Article 9. A qualified, senior university official designated by mutual agreement shall be responsible for competitive and other qualifying examinations for French diplomas.

He shall organize them together with the competent members of the corps of inspectors in accordance with the conditions stipulated by French regulations, subject, where necessary, to modifications laid down by agreement between the Contracting Parties.

Diplomas and certificates conferred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under the same conditions (curriculum, length of course and examination) as corresponding French diplomas and certificates shall, subject to the implementation of the provisions of the second paragraph of article 8 above, be automatically valid in the territory of the French Republic and shall entitle their holder to the same treatment under French laws and regulations, without prejudice to any provisions to the contrary concerning the establishment of nationals of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in the territory of the French Republic.

Diplomas and certificates that may be conferred by the competent authorities of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania under conditions other than those stipulated in article 9 above may be recognized as the equivalent of the corresponding French diplomas and certificates under the conditions laid down by the regulations in force in the territory of the French Republic.

French diplomas and certificates shall be automatically valid in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and shall entitle their holder to the same treatment under Mauritanian rules and regulations as corresponding diplomas and certificates conferred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, without prejudice to any provisions to the contrary concerning the

establishment of French nationals in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

French university authorities may, after informing the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, organize in its territory competitive and other examinations solely for French nationals.

Article 10. Physical or juridical persons who are nationals of the French Republic or the Islamic Republic of Mauritania may set up or maintain private educational establishments in the territory of the other Republic, provided that they have obtained the prior authorization of the Government concerned under the same conditions as its own nationals, that they have the necessary professional teaching qualifications and that they conform to the laws and regulations of public policy in force in the place where the establishment is located.

Private establishments duly authorized and recognized at the date this Agreement comes into effect shall be entitled to pursue their activities under the present conditions.

TITLE II

CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Article 11. The French Republic undertakes to assist the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in establishing and developing higher education in its territory.

For the purposes of this Agreement, higher education shall be education provided in university establishments and in training and advanced training establishments for senior scientific, pedagogical, technical and administrative personnel of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Article 12. To that end, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall establish a National Council of Higher Education which, in accordance with the priorities determined by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the one hand and the resources and credits to be allocated for that purpose on the other, shall draw up the plan for the establishment and development of higher education in Mauritania and shall propose to the Contracting Parties such measures as may be appropriate for its implementation.

Article 13. The procedures for setting up and organizing higher educational establishments and the relevant curricula, degrees and diplomas to be conferred and financial regime shall be the subject of later supplementary agreements.

Article 14. Where Mauritanian nationals cannot be trained in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Government of the French Republic shall make it possible for them to be trained in educational and research establishments of the French Republic. Mauritanian nationals shall have access to such establishments without being subject to provisions requiring possession of French nationality.

The Government of the French Republic shall grant the persons concerned study, training or research fellowships and, by relaxing age limits,

accepting applicants on the basis of certificates, providing for additional places, etc., shall facilitate their entry to the Grandes Écoles and the higher technical schools of the French Republic, and to competitive examinations for educational personnel (secondary and technical school teacher's diploma — *certificat d'aptitude pédagogique à l'enseignement secondaire et à l'enseignement technique* — and advanced graduate degree — *agrégation*).

It shall also promote the organization of seminars and practical training programmes reserved especially for such persons.

In particular, students of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania who wish to teach and practising teachers who wish to obtain higher qualification or to enter the corps of inspectors may be required to complete their pedagogical training in the qualified establishments of the French Republic.

TITLE III

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Article 15. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall work together to promote science, arts and literature and knowledge of their respective cultural heritages.

This co-operation shall be symbolized, in particular, by the establishment in Nouakchott of a Franco-Mauritanian Cultural Centre (*Maison de la Culture franco-mauritanienne*) which shall be, for both countries, a centre for the dissemination and exchange of ideas.

Article 16. The Contracting Parties shall encourage, by every means at their disposal, cultural exchanges between their countries and their nationals.

In particular, each Party shall promote the setting up in its territory by the other Party of libraries, institutes and cultural centres with a view to making their cultures and civilizations better known to each other. Subject to the regulations in force in each country, they shall encourage the exchange of documents, equipment and experience in the field of publications, film and radio broadcasting.

Each Party also undertakes to facilitate by all possible means, and in particular by organizing instructional travel, courses, exchanges of teachers and young people, by granting fellowships and by the use of audio-visual techniques of communication, the dissemination in the other country of knowledge of its national life.

Article 17. The nationals of each of the two States shall enjoy, in the territory of the other freedom of expression with regard to thought and art consistent with respect for public policy.

The entry, circulation and dissemination of the means of expression of thought and art of each of the two countries shall be fully assured, and as far as possible encouraged, in the territory of the other, subject to respect for public policy.

Facilities shall be granted in each of the two countries for the duty-free importation of books, films and records shipped from the territory of the other Contracting Party.

TITLE IV

CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

Article 18. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall organize their mutual co-operation with regard to scientific and technical research on the following terms:

(a) The Government of the French Republic undertakes to the full extent of its possibilities to assist the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in carrying out its national programmes of scientific and technical research, both fundamental and applied, in particular through the participation of specialized institutions or organizations.

The terms of this assistance shall be laid down, where necessary, by special agreements.

(b) To the full extent of its possibilities and at the request of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Government of the French Republic shall ensure and take responsibility for the training and advanced training of scientific and technical personnel, particularly in senior research posts.

Article 19. The two Parties agree that they should organize general research on a joint basis and should determine, where necessary, in accordance with agreements to be concluded, in what ways they will co-operate in the elaboration and implementation of programmes of common interest which are to be carried out in the territory of both Parties.

TITLE V

OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 20. A joint committee shall be set up to supervise the implementation of this Agreement. It shall consist of six representatives, three appointed by each of the Contracting Parties, and shall meet at least once a year in Paris and Nouakchott alternately.

Article 21. This Agreement shall enter into force at the same time as the Treaty on co-operation signed this day.¹

DONE at Paris on 19 June 1961.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

[M. DEBRÉ]

For the Government
of the Islamic Republic
of Mauritania:

[OULD DADDAH]

¹ See p. 3 of this volume.

TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA OF
19 JUNE 1961¹

The above-mentioned Agreement ceased to have effect as of 31 December 1972, as specified in the Exchange of letters constituting an agreement between France and Mauritania relating to the list of Agreements which ceased to have effect as of 31 December 1972 and to the confirmation of other Agreements, dated at Nouakchott on 15 February 1973.²

¹ See p. 25 of this volume.

² See p. 125 of this volume.